



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window, which opened February 3, presents a unique opportunity for eligible Tribal entities to obtain licenses for prime mid-band spectrum that can help Tribes address their connectivity needs. While the application window was originally scheduled to close on August 3, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was extended an additional 30-days until 6 pm EDT on September 2, 2020.

This 30-day extension strikes an appropriate balance between providing more time for additional Tribal entities to apply and not unduly delaying the grant of licenses to those that already have applied. The Commission cannot begin the process of issuing licenses to eligible applicants until after the window closes, because we will not know the extent of mutually exclusive applications for as long as the window is open. A much longer extension would therefore substantially delay our award of licenses to Tribal entities and thus delay their ability to use this spectrum to connect those consumers living on Tribal lands. Moreover, in light of the simplified application process as well as the extensive outreach done by Commission staff (including contacting every single federally recognized Tribe and Alaska Native Village the month before the window opened, first by phone or other direct contact, and a second time by letter), a lengthy extension of the deadline is unnecessary. Indeed, the Commission has already received over 333 applications from Tribal entities during the window.

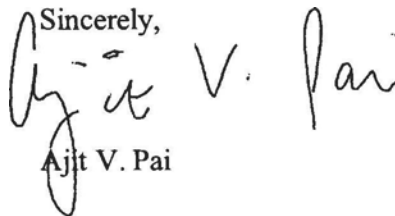
Furthermore, our decision to extend the Rural Tribal Priority Window by 30 days is consistent with actions we have taken to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of other recent spectrum auctions. In March, the Commission postponed certain dates and deadlines for participation in Auction 105, the auction of Priority Access Licenses for the 3550-3650 MHz band. The Commission delayed the deadline for filing short-form applications to participate in the auction by 14 days (from April 9 to April 23, 2020) and the auction start date by 28 days (from June 25 to July 23, 2020). And with these delays, Auction 105 attracted 271 qualified bidders, many of whom are small businesses or entities that do not regularly participate

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While interim steps such as Special Temporary Authority (STA) can allow Tribes with existing wireless infrastructure to quickly expand capacity for a short period of time, these temporary measures do not provide the certainty needed to support long-term investments in broadband deployment to unserved and underserved areas. STAs authorize a limited time use of spectrum on a secondary, non-interference basis, with no protection from interference and no assurance of continued use; they thus do not provide the longer-term assurance associated with a formal license that can enable substantial investment decisions. Indeed, delaying further the ability of Tribes to obtain a formal license could adversely impact Tribes' access to funding opportunities and resources needed to support their planned deployments.

Commission staff continues to work hard on this initiative, enabling eligible Tribal entities to apply and avail themselves of its benefits as soon as possible. We encourage potential Tribal applicants to make inquiries via e-mail to [RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov](mailto:RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov) so that Commission staff can answer any questions they might have about the application process.

Again, I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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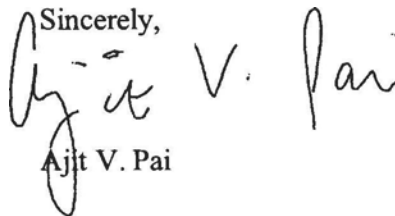
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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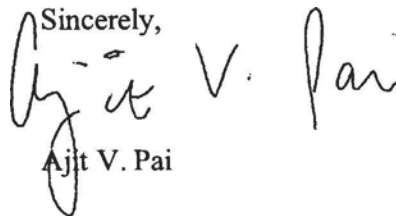
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cole:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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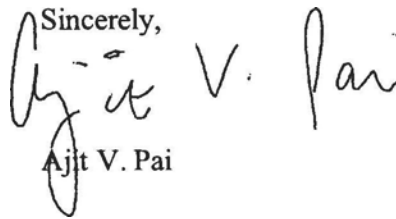
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Ed Case  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2443 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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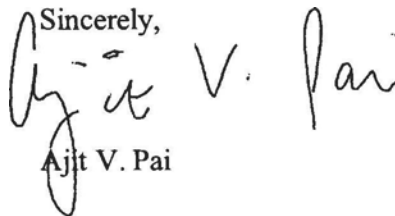
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Sharice Davids  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1541 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Davids:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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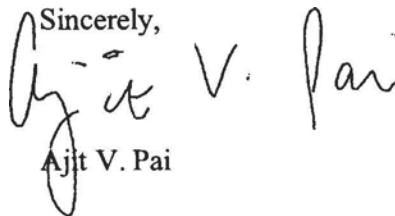


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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Suzan DelBene  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2442 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DelBene:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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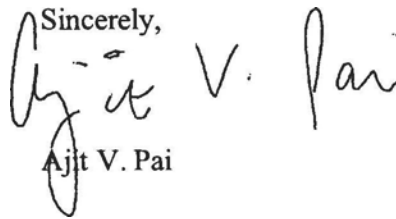
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

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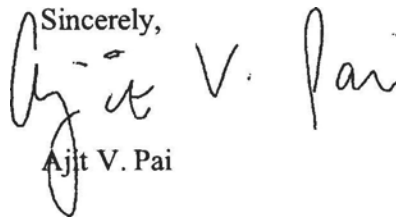
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Ruben Gallego  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gallego:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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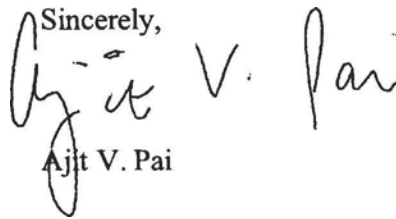


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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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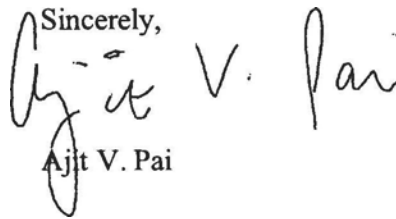
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Haaland:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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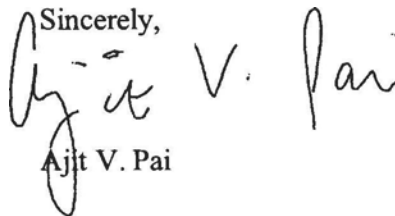
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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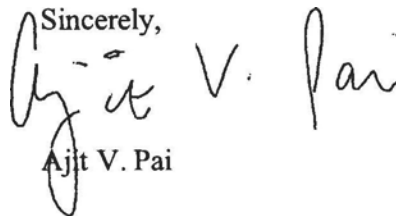


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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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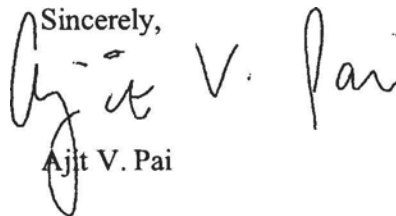
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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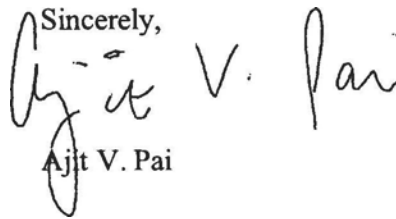
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Steven Horsford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1330 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Horsford:

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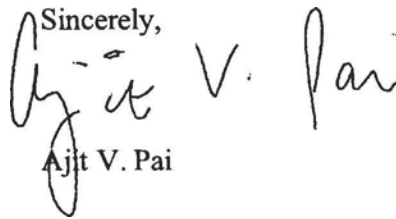


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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

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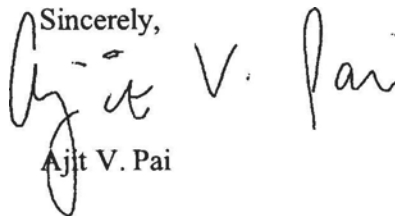
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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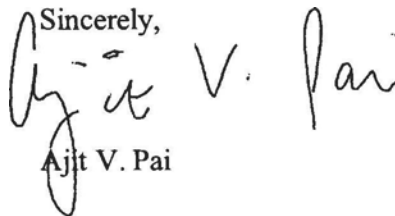
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Derek Kilmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1520 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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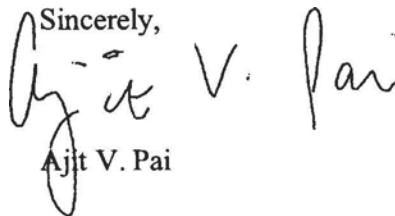


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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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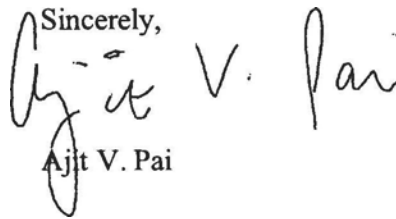
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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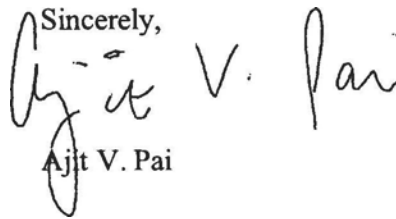
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Sincerely,  
  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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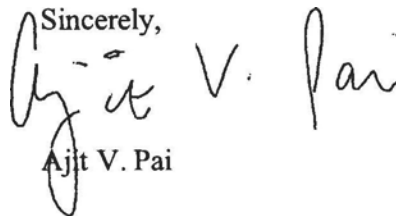


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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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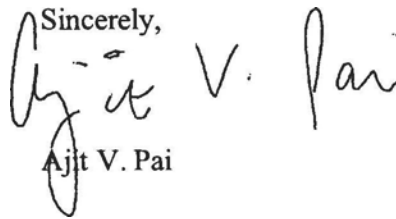
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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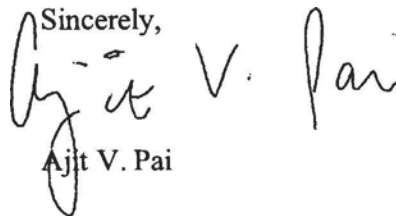
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

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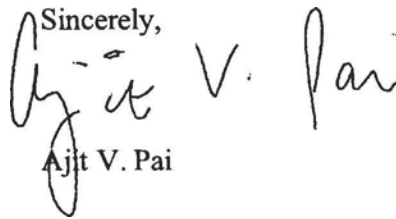


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Again, I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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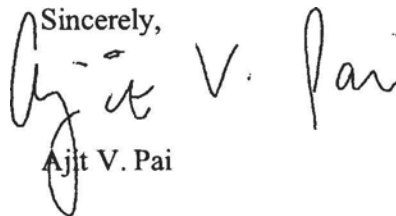
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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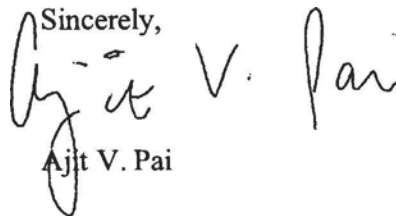
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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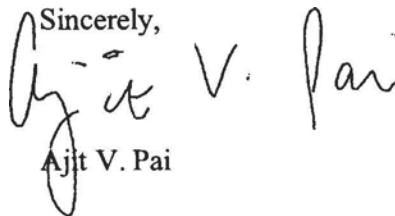


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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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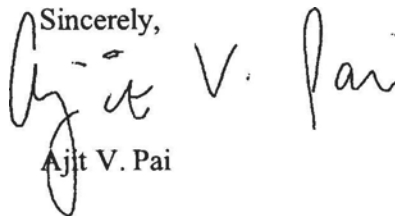
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Sincerely,  
  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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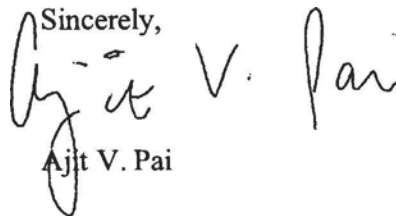
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Greg Stanton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stanton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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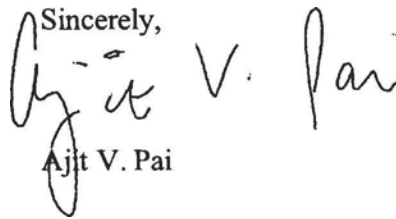


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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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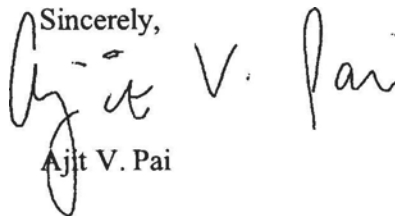
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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window, which opened February 3, presents a unique opportunity for eligible Tribal entities to obtain licenses for prime mid-band spectrum that can help Tribes address their connectivity needs. While the application window was originally scheduled to close on August 3, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was extended an additional 30-days until 6 pm EDT on September 2, 2020.

This 30-day extension strikes an appropriate balance between providing more time for additional Tribal entities to apply and not unduly delaying the grant of licenses to those that already have applied. The Commission cannot begin the process of issuing licenses to eligible applicants until after the window closes, because we will not know the extent of mutually exclusive applications for as long as the window is open. A much longer extension would therefore substantially delay our award of licenses to Tribal entities and thus delay their ability to use this spectrum to connect those consumers living on Tribal lands. Moreover, in light of the simplified application process as well as the extensive outreach done by Commission staff (including contacting every single federally recognized Tribe and Alaska Native Village the month before the window opened, first by phone or other direct contact, and a second time by letter), a lengthy extension of the deadline is unnecessary. Indeed, the Commission has already received over 333 applications from Tribal entities during the window.

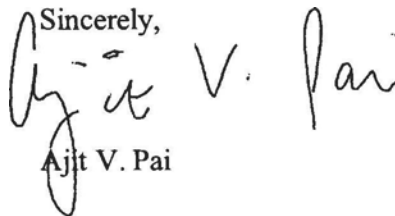
Furthermore, our decision to extend the Rural Tribal Priority Window by 30 days is consistent with actions we have taken to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of other recent spectrum auctions. In March, the Commission postponed certain dates and deadlines for participation in Auction 105, the auction of Priority Access Licenses for the 3550-3650 MHz band. The Commission delayed the deadline for filing short-form applications to participate in the auction by 14 days (from April 9 to April 23, 2020) and the auction start date by 28 days (from June 25 to July 23, 2020). And with these delays, Auction 105 attracted 271 qualified bidders, many of whom are small businesses or entities that do not regularly participate

in FCC auctions. Moreover, the Commission's decision to postpone indefinitely Auction 106 (an auction for FM broadcast construction permits) was based on unique factors not at issue here related to auction design and planning, potential issues with Commission staff resources, and the prioritization of scheduled auctions.

While interim steps such as Special Temporary Authority (STA) can allow Tribes with existing wireless infrastructure to quickly expand capacity for a short period of time, these temporary measures do not provide the certainty needed to support long-term investments in broadband deployment to unserved and underserved areas. STAs authorize a limited time use of spectrum on a secondary, non-interference basis, with no protection from interference and no assurance of continued use; they thus do not provide the longer-term assurance associated with a formal license that can enable substantial investment decisions. Indeed, delaying further the ability of Tribes to obtain a formal license could adversely impact Tribes' access to funding opportunities and resources needed to support their planned deployments.

Commission staff continues to work hard on this initiative, enabling eligible Tribal entities to apply and avail themselves of its benefits as soon as possible. We encourage potential Tribal applicants to make inquiries via e-mail to [RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov](mailto:RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov) so that Commission staff can answer any questions they might have about the application process.

Again, I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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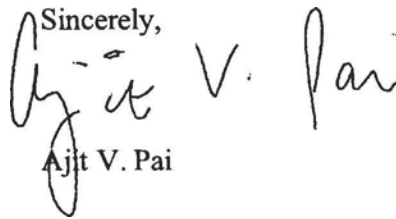


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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window. Closing the digital divide is my top priority as Chairman. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I also fully recognize the importance of broadband and telecommunications services in Tribal communities, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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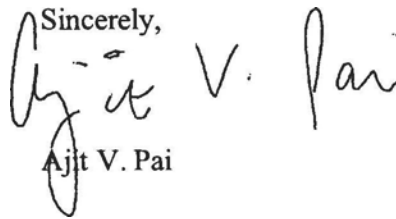
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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August 24, 2020

The Honorable Don Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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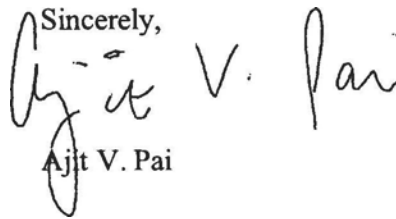
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